

156

Boston, July 14, 1858.

Beloved Friend:

Two letters from you — one dated April 28, the other June 5 — are before me, unanswered. I have no other excuse to offer than that I have intended to write so long a reply that, to my mortification, I have written none. Nevertheless, you will need no assurance from me, — for you know how great are my respect and attachment in your case, — that I am always delighted to hear from you.

One year ago, I was enjoying your society and hospitality at Huntly Lodge, with my two youngest children, Fanny and Frank. We have all been living our visit over again, in grateful remembrance, and recalling to mind your many kindnesses to us, the various excursions we took together, the ascent of Arthur's Seat, the admirable panoramic view from that unique elevation, the generous welcome proffered at the soiree given by the Ladies' Emancipation Society, and the marked honor bestowed upon me by the city authorities. Can it be possible that twelve months

Ms. A. 1. 1 v. 7, p. 88A



have fled since our all-too-brief sojourn in  
 beautiful Edinburgh? If it had been in your  
 power to reciprocate our visit, and to be with us <sup>at this time</sup>  
 in our quiet retreat at Rockledge, how great would  
 be our pleasure, and how like a renewal of the whole  
 year it would seem! I strongly cherished the hope,  
 up to the last hour of their leaving the English shores,  
 that you would be able to accompany our esteemed  
 friends Richard D. Webb and Mary Estlin to the  
 United States. They got safely over, with very little  
 inconvenience from sea-sickness, and you would  
 probably have been quite as fortunate. Richard  
 came to us soon after his landing at New York,  
 and remained a few days, when he accompanied  
 me to the Yearly Meeting of ~~the~~ Progressive Friends,  
 held at Longwood, Pennsylvania, receiving a very  
 cordial welcome from many friends to whom  
 his name and labors in the Anti-Slavery struggle  
 were perfectly familiar. Miss Estlin was also  
 there, getting her share of attention and warm con-  
 gratulation; and both of them derived great pleas-  
 ure and interest from what they saw and heard on  
 the occasion. Richard modestly participated in



the proceedings, and spoke in a very humorous and racy manner. At the conclusion of the four days' meetings, he and Miss Estlin went with me to Wilmington, Delaware, (twelve miles from Longwood,) in order to have an interview with that noble-hearted friend of the oppressed, Thomas Garrett, of whose serious illness we had heard with sorrow. Though greatly debilitated and in bed, our coming had a tonic effect upon his system, and he insisted on being dressed, and coming down stairs to dine with us! It was an effort that his physician winked at, believing it would not cause any reaction under the circumstances. We found him very cheerful, ready to depart, but strong in the belief that he should yet recover. This, however, is still very uncertain. He was quite overjoyed to see us; and having had an epistolary correspondence with R. D. W., of some years' standing, was particularly gratified to take him by the hand. Before leaving Wilmington, we attended a session of the African Methodist Episcopal Conference, and were received with very hearty applause, and earnest words of welcome.



From Wilmington we went to Philadelphia, and were hospitably entertained by dear Lucretia Mott at "Roadside," eight miles from the city, though almost included in its limits. The death of her estimable husband, James Mott, has made a large vacancy in the family circle. Her own health is extremely delicate, her bodily weight being only eighty-five pounds, but her spirit seems to indicate no pressure of time. I left Richard and Miss Estlin there, and returned home, and have not seen either of them since. He soon afterward went to Baltimore and Washington, and in the latter city was introduced to Sumner, Wilson, and many other distinguished persons, attended the sessions of Congress, and saw much to gratify his curiosity. He is at this time in Ohio, visiting his old Dublin friends the Sulist, with whom his daughter Deborah has been stopping, but whom he is intending to bring to New England without delay, inasmuch as her present location is fruitful of fever and ague. I am expecting them from day to day, and trust neither of them will be afflicted with that very distressing malady.



Miss Estlin has been visiting Gerrit Smith at Peterboro', and Samuel J. May at Syracuse. She is now with Samuel May, Jr. at Leicester, in this State, and is coming to Boston to-morrow, to remain awhile in this region. Mrs. Chapman and the Westons will expect her to pass some time with them at Weymouth; after which she will come to Rockledge. Aside from the severity of our present "heated term," I believe she has very much enjoyed her visit to the new world.

And now, my dear friend, what do you think of my having been twice made a grandfather, recently! On the 20th of June, Ellie (William's wife) had born to her a son; and on the 29th of the same month, my darling Fanny was safely delivered of a daughter; everything having since gone well with the young mothers and the babes. Knowing her situation, we had a good deal of anxiety about Fanny's crossing the ocean in May, especially as she was liable to extreme sea-sickness; but, happily, though the voyage was uncommonly rough, she got home in superb health; and then our solicitude hovered around the birth



of her first-born. We are now made jubilant by the auspicious result. Of course, the new comers have no peers. Yet, that I may not be "exalted above measure," my dear friend Samuel Jr. May, in writing me a warmly congratulatory letter, says in praise of his grandchildren that they could speak Latin and Greek as fluently as they could the English language, the very first year! Mirabile dictu! Well, I am now blessed with four, the sexes being equally divided; and, surely, this has a somewhat patriarchal look. Still, as my health continues very good, and my spirits are very high, I cannot realize that I am much older than I was at the births of my own children. Indeed, the effect of this accession and succession is rather to lessen than to increase the sense of advancing age. Mr. Villard is, of course, quite delighted to be a father, and abundantly satisfied that a daughter takes precedence of a son. He and Fanny will probably continue to abide with us at Rockledge for some time to come, and it is to be hoped permanently, especially for <sup>Fanny's</sup> ~~the~~ mother's sake.



In one of your letters, you kindly express much concern for my dear wife on hearing that she had had an additional fall. I am happy to state that, apparently, no injurious effects have followed it; and her general health is remarkably good. In fact, there are few women of her age (not on the list of cripples or invalids) whose countenance is so fair and rosy as her own. You can readily imagine that Fanny's return and presence, to say nothing of the babe, have been very strengthening to her.

Having completed his first term at the Institute of Technology, Frank is now taking a vacation; but as he does not incline to any professional calling, it is probable he will turn his attention to business, like his brother William. He and Fanny will never forget your kindness to them and their father, and desire (with wife) to be most affectionately remembered to you.

Of the subscriptions to the "National Testimonial," yours was the most munificent. I need not renew my thanks.



I regret to hear of the serious illness of Mrs. Nichols, at Glasgow, but trust that, long ere this, her health has been fully restored. I remember her pleasant countenance and cheerful company with a great deal of pleasure. Give her and her husband my kindest regards. I am glad to learn that he has been fighting the battle of secular education, in his own brave manner, and in the face of sectarian obloquy. All honor to him!

And so, after the lapse of five years, M. D. Conway has forwarded to you the photographs of my family, which were entrusted to his care in 1863! Or, do I misapprehend the fact as to his remissness? Was the package, on being received by yourself, mislaid all that time?

I am much interested in what you say concerning the works of Baron Bunsen, and will try to procure them.

With most affectionate regards to the Wighams, the Ritchies, and other friends of the Anti-Slavery circle in Edinburgh, I remain,  
E. P. Nichol. Faithfully yours, Wm Lloyd Garrison.